



## OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq.  
*Inspector General*

### NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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#### **OIG Investigation Reemphasizes Need For Clear Grant Eligibility Requirements**

Rockville, Maryland – Montgomery County Maryland Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi announced today the release of a new report, [Investigation of a Restaurant Relief Grant Applicant](#). The report details the results of an investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) into an allegation that an applicant provided false or misleading information to secure pandemic-related grant funds through various County restaurant relief grant programs. The OIG did not substantiate the allegation but observed that the Restaurant Relief grant program administered by the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) lacked clearly defined and communicated criteria which resulted in applicant confusion and an unwarranted grant award of \$10,000.

The OIG did not make formal recommendations related to the finding, but instead reiterated a recommendation made in an October 2020 OIG publication, *Lessons Learned from County COVID-19 Grant Programs*, explaining that not having clearly defined eligibility criteria would “minimize the effectiveness of assistance efforts, lead to errors in processing applications, and potentially lead to eligible applicants being denied assistance.”

The full report can be found at the following location,  
[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIG/Resources/Files/PDF/IGActivity/FY2022/MOI\\_Restaurant\\_Grant\\_Program\\_Applicant.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIG/Resources/Files/PDF/IGActivity/FY2022/MOI_Restaurant_Grant_Program_Applicant.pdf)

Please direct all inquiries to:

**Email:** [ig@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ig@montgomerycountymd.gov)

**Phone:** 240-777-8240